

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-4604**

January 31, 2017

The Honorable John Barrasso  
Chairman  
Committee on Environment & Public Works  
307 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thomas R. Carper  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Environment & Public Works  
513 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Barrasso and Ranking Member Carper:

I urge you not to confirm Oklahoma Attorney General E. Scott Pruitt's nomination to serve as administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. Mr. Pruitt's own words and actions — especially his skepticism of settled climate science — disqualify him for this role.

Mr. Pruitt has written that the “debate [on climate change] is far from settled.” In testimony during his confirmation hearing before you and your fellow committee members, he said that there should be “continuing debate” on the extent to which human activities are driving that change. Mr. Pruitt's perspective ignores mountains of evidence — and an overwhelming consensus among actual climate science experts.

In 2013, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change — an international group of experts convened by the United Nations — concluded with 95% confidence that “more than half of the observed increase in global average surface temperature from 1951 to 2010 was caused by the anthropogenic increase in greenhouse gas concentrations and other anthropogenic forcings together.” In other words, the panel conclusively determined that climate change is real — and is driven primarily by human activity.

Since that time, evidence has continued to mount. Earlier this month, NASA and NOAA deemed 2016 the warmest year on record; 2015 and 2014 had likewise set records. In fact, sixteen of the seventeen warmest years on record have happened since 2000.

Climatological changes are already producing concrete harms — extreme weather; severe droughts and wildfires; rising sea levels; loss of habitat and biodiversity. The exact consequences vary by region, but no one is unaffected — and we all should share an interest in minimizing these harms.

Countries around the world need to take swift, decisive action to reduce carbon emissions. In the United States, such reductions will require the support and active involvement of the Environmental Protection Agency. As a result, it is vital that the next EPA administrator be someone who fully understands the

dangers we face, and is deeply committed to meeting the challenge before us. Every indication suggests that Mr. Pruitt cannot or will not play that role.

To his statements on climate change, I would add one additional piece of evidence. Directly and indirectly, residents of the Fourth Congressional District rely on a clean and healthy Chesapeake Bay. The Bay powers our economy and enriches our lives in countless ways; its cleanliness is an important public health concern. In 2010, the EPA recognized that existing cleanup efforts were failing to make necessary progress. In response, the agency stepped in to more effectively limit pollution — and as a result, the Bay has begun to show new progress.

That progress, and any future improvements, might never have happened if Mr. Pruitt had gotten his wish. In 2010, Mr. Pruitt filed an amicus brief that urged a federal court to reject the EPA's Chesapeake Bay cleanup efforts. That outcome would have been a disaster for my district, for Virginia, and for our entire country.

On behalf of my constituents, and on behalf of all those who recognize the need to leave behind a sustainable, healthy planet, I urge you to oppose Mr. Pruitt's nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "A. Donald McEachin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first name "A." is followed by "Donald", then "McEachin". There is a horizontal line drawn under the signature.

**A. Donald McEachin (VA-04)**  
Member of Congress